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Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Julius Genachowski, Chairman
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

January 5, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Disability Network is a 15 year old center for independent living, offering many programs and supports for people with disabilities. It is our mission to change attitudes and policies by using advocacy, education and inclusion to promote freedom, choice, opportunity and equality for all people, including those with disabilities.

We are writing to express our concerns about the "net neutrality" rules you are currently considering for GN Docket No. 09-191.

Access to affordable broadband is critical for people with disabilities to live independently, participate in society and to seek out the same opportunities available to others. In the past decade, this access has had a profound change in how persons with disabilities live their lives. Broadband enables low-cost remote sign language interpreters for people who are deaf to communicate with doctors at medical appointments, allows participation in online education programs for people with mobility disabilities and creates opportunities for people with disabilities to work from home. In fact, research shows that people with disabilities are using information and web-based technology more than others.

We believe the government should adopt policies that will encourage additional investment in broadband and make it more accessible to ensure that people with disabilities are able to fully participate in society.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mike Zelley
Executive Director

cc: Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell